

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7358

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION N Y

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1059

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS PFOR GR TU

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO TURKISH ACCEPTANCE

"IN PRINCIPLE" TO REFER AEGEAN ISSUE TO ICJ

REF: ANKARA 1089

1. GOG OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED EVENING FEB 6 THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE JAN 27 GREEK PROPOSAL THAT AEGEAN DISPUTE BE REFERRED JOINTLY BY TWO GOVERNMENTS TO ICJ FOR RESOLUTION (ATHENS 727). THE TURKISH NOTE, DELIVERED EARLIER IN DAY TO GREEK EMBASSY ANKARA, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY AUTHORITATIVE GREEK SOURCE AS CONFIDENTIAL

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"CONSTRUCTIVE." AFTER NOTE'S TEXT RECEIVED IN ATHENS,

PM CARAMANLIS PRESIDED OVER EVENING MEETING TO DISCUSS
TURKISH RESPONSE AT WHICH MINISTERS DEFENSE, FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND COORDINATION ALSO PRESENT. WHILE TEXT OF
TURKISH REPLY NOT MADE PUBLIC, GOT ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED
THAT BILATERAL TALKS WILL FIRST TAKE PLACE AT WHICH
GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES WILL FORMULATE ISSUES TO BE
SUBMITTED TO ICJ FOR DECISION.

2. IN CONVERSATION MORNING JAN 7 WITH EMBOFF, MFA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OFFICE CYPRUS AND TURKISH AFFAIRS MACRIS
STATED THAT TURKISH NOTE DID NOT CONSTITUTE "AN EXPLICIT
YES" --BUT RATHER A "YES IN PRINCIPLE" TO REFER AEGEAN
DISPUTE TO ICJ. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT GOT NOTE WAS A
"POSITIVE FIRST STEP." HE COMMENTED THAT NOW MUCH
DEPENDS ON THE GOOD WILL OF BOTH SIDES.

3. HE STRESSED THAT THE PRELIMINARY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
WILL EXAMINE AND DEFINE THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF THE
DISPUTE. THEY COULD INVOLVE "EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS"--ALL
OF WHICH MAY NOT GO "SMOOTHLY," HE ADDED. IN REPLY
EMBOFF'S QUESTION, MACRIS INDICATED THAT NO DECISION HAS YET
BEEN REACHED AS TO WHEN BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BEGIN, BUT
THAT THIS SHOULD BECOME CLEARER "WITHIN A FEW DAYS."

4. REGARDING TURKISH PRESS REPORTS THAT GOT HAD DECIDED
TO POSTPONE AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES FOR TIME
BEING, MACRIS STATED THAT HE HAD NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION
TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS, BUT HE THOUGHT MAYBE A "GENTLEMEN'S
AGREEMENT" ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE REACHED. GREEK PRESS
FEATURED NEWS OF TURKISH ACCEPTANCE GREEK PROPOSAL
PROMINENTLY FOR
MOST PART EXPRESSING POSITIVE SATISFACTION.
KATHIMERINI IN ITS FRONT PAGE HEADLINE CHOSE TO "WAVE FLAG"
A BIT BY CATERGORIZING TURKISH ACCEPTANCE AS CONSTITUTING

"DIPLOMATIC VICTORY" FOR GREEK GOVERNMENT.
KUBISCH

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